continuation of Indian grant assistance for the Goitre control programme in Nepal. A Joint Press Statement was also issued during the visit.

(c) and (d) The Government of Nepal has assured that it would not allow its territory to be used for any activity against India. It has also been agreed to enhance bilateral cooperation to effectively address all issues concerning security, including cross border crime, through existing bilateral mechanisms.

Privatization of passport offices

798. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the passport offices were deprived of the software which were provided to TATA;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the whole work related to Passport Issuance System is proposed to be done by the private contractor and the passport employees would be given the job of verifying the work done by private workers; and

(d) if so, the reason for Government going in for privatization of passport offices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SHASHI THAROOR): (a) No.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) and (d) No. All non-sovereign and non-sensitive functions involving issuance of tokens, initial scrutiny of application, capture of photo and finger prints, scanning of documents and acceptance of fee will be performed by the employees of the Service Provider while sovereign and sensitive functions such as actual verification of documents with originals and the granting, printing and dispatch of passports will be performed by Central Passport Organisation (CPO) employees.

Indo-Pak meeting

799. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indo-Pak talks was held in the recent past;

(b) if so, the details of various issues discussed in the said meeting;

(c) the reactions of Pakistan on the points raised by India;

(d) the details of the decision taken on the occasion; and

(e) the mutual benefits likely to accrue as a result of these talks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SHASHI THAROOR): (a) Yes. The External Affairs Minister (EAM) met Pakistan Foreign Minister (FM) Shah Mahmood Qureshi on September 27, 2009 in New York on the sidelines of UNGA. This

meeting was preceded by a detailed meeting between the Foreign Secretaries of India and Pakistan.

(b) to (e) Both the Ministers had a useful, constructive and candid exchange of views on the situation in our bilateral relations. They agreed that the future direction in our bilateral relations has to be one of deeper, sustained and meaningful relations. EAM conveyed to Pakistan FM our view that for a sustained and meaningful dialogue process to succeed, it is essential to ensure an environment free of violence, terrorism and the threat to use violence. EAM underlined and reiterated that concrete and effective steps by Pakistan against individuals and entities who pose a threat to us can instill in us the confidence that commitments given by Pakistan for not allowing its soil to be used for terrorist attacks against India would be adhered to. Pakistan FM conveyed the seriousness of his Government in bringing to book through their legal process those responsible for the terrorist outrage in Mumbai. Pakistan FM conveyed that the trial against those accused for the Mumbai attack would begin shortly and that the Pakistan Government would take steps to see that justice is done.

Position of Arunachal Pradesh in Google map

800. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Google map depicts Arunachal Pradesh as part of China;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps that has been taken by Government in this concern; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SHASHI THAROOR): (a) to (d) Government is aware of reports to such effect. The matter was taken up with Google. Google issued a statement in August, 2009 admitting that it was the result of an error in processing of data. The error has since been corrected in the Google Maps for India *< http://maps.google.co.in >*.

Passport application sent by speed post

801. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that the Regional Passport Office (RPO), Shimla, has been sending back passport applications sent to the office by speed post;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government has issued any order to the various regional passport offices instructing them not to accept such applications which are being sent by speed post;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and